

SATOMI ICHIKAWA



# Sophie and Nicky Go to Market

Text by Robina Beckles Willson

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8 aubergines  
a bunch of radishes  
2 lbs apples  
a bottle of milk  
2 balls of blue wool  
a bunch of flowers  
French bread and  
a cottage loaf



“Today’s market day,” said Mother. “Would you like to go down to the village and do my shopping for me, Sophie and Nicky?”

“All by ourselves?” asked Sophie.

“All by yourselves,” said Mother.

Mother said what she wanted from the market, and Nicky wrote it down very carefully. Sophie helped him, and their little brother Robin watched. Robin was too small to go with them.

“Now, don’t forget anything,” said Mother, waving goodbye.



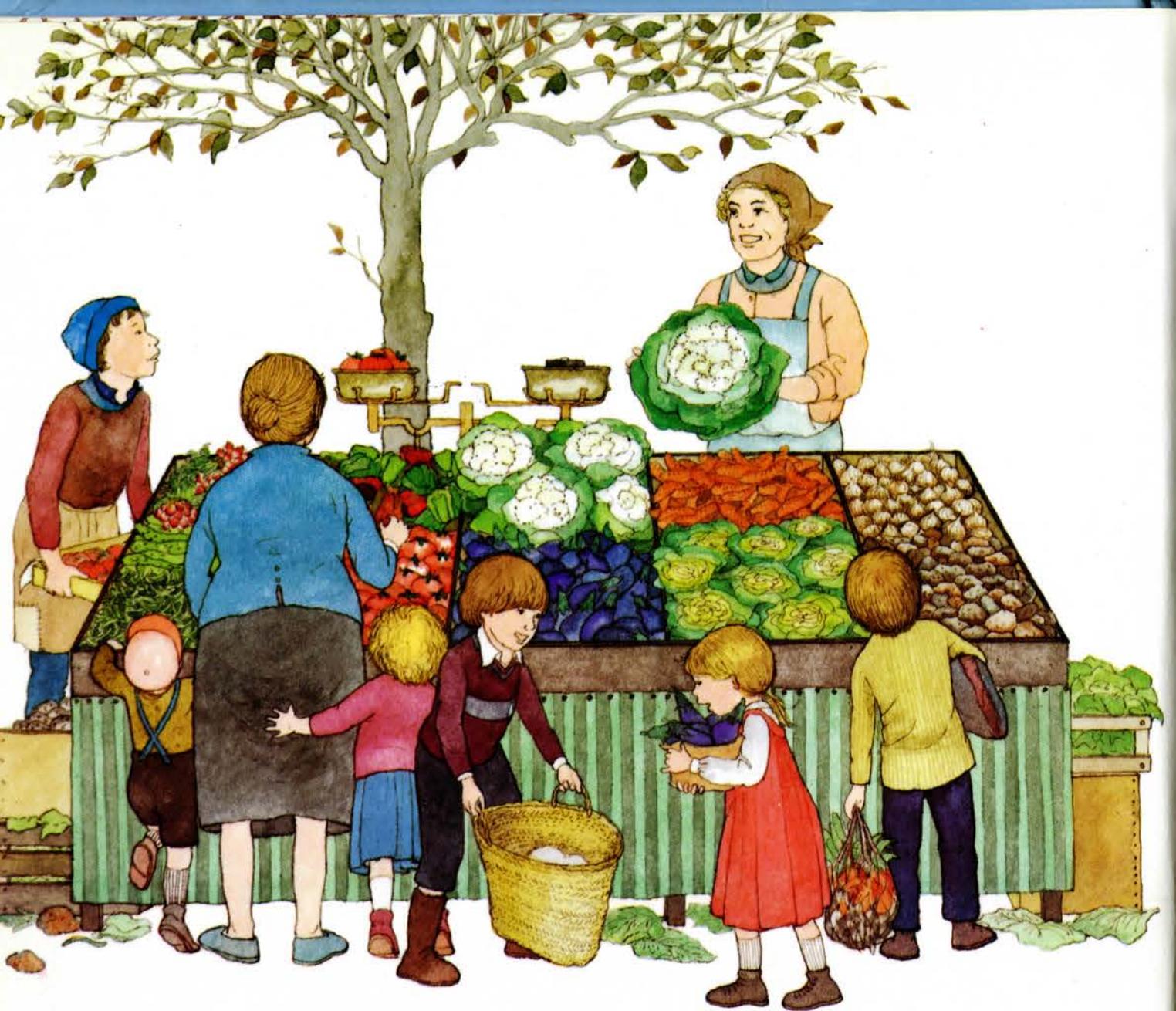


Swinging the basket between them, Sophie and Nicky ran down the leafy lane to the village. There were a lot of people in the square next to the church.

"What shall we buy first?" asked Sophie.

"Vegetables," said Nicky. "I can see the stall over there."





"Eight aubergines and a bunch of radishes, please," said Sophie.

"Here you are, dear," said the lady, and Sophie and Nicky put them into their basket.

"I'm going to be a farmer when I grow up," said Nicky. "I'll have a big field and rows and rows of cabbages and aubergines and onions and lettuces."

"I'd rather grow big tomatoes," said Sophie. "They taste much better."





"Oh look, there's the fishmonger," said Sophie.

"Mother doesn't want any fish," said Nicky.

"No, but I want to look anyway," said Sophie.

"They have such beautiful silvery skins."

"And they smell of the seaside," said Nicky. "It reminds me of going on holiday. We never catch any fish, though."





"Now we must buy some apples," said Sophie.

"I wish Mother had said grapes instead," said Nicky. "I love grapes."

"I love apples," said Sophie. "I wish we had our own apple tree. We could invite everyone we know to come and help pick them. Then we could eat as many as we liked."





"Here's the dairy stall," said Nicky. "We must buy some milk."

"Does your mother need any eggs?" asked the lady.

"Not today, thank you," said Sophie.

"When I have my farm," said Nicky, "I'll have my own cows and we can drink fresh milk."

"You can make your own cheese from milk, too," said the dairy lady. "All these cheeses I'm selling came from our farm."





"There's the man who sells baskets and wooden things," said Sophie. "Let's go and have a look."

She tried on a pair of wooden clogs, and Nicky picked up a beautiful sailing boat, but they had no money to buy anything.

"I do love the smell of wood," said Nicky.

"So do I," said Sophie. "Do you remember when we went for a picnic in the woods and sat on a big tree trunk? It smelt just like this."





They had to stop at the next stall to buy some wool for their mother. The wool lady let Sophie try on a rainbow-coloured woolly hat and scarf and mitts.

“I’m going to ask Mother to buy me these next week,” she said.

“Wait till I have my own farm,” said Nicky. “I’ll have a whole flock of sheep and you can have some of the wool so you can knit a scarf for yourself.”

“I’d like that,” said Sophie.

“We mustn’t forget to buy some flowers for Mother,” said Nicky.





There were so many different flowers on the flower stall that they couldn't decide which to buy.

"I think she'd like these pink ones," said Sophie.

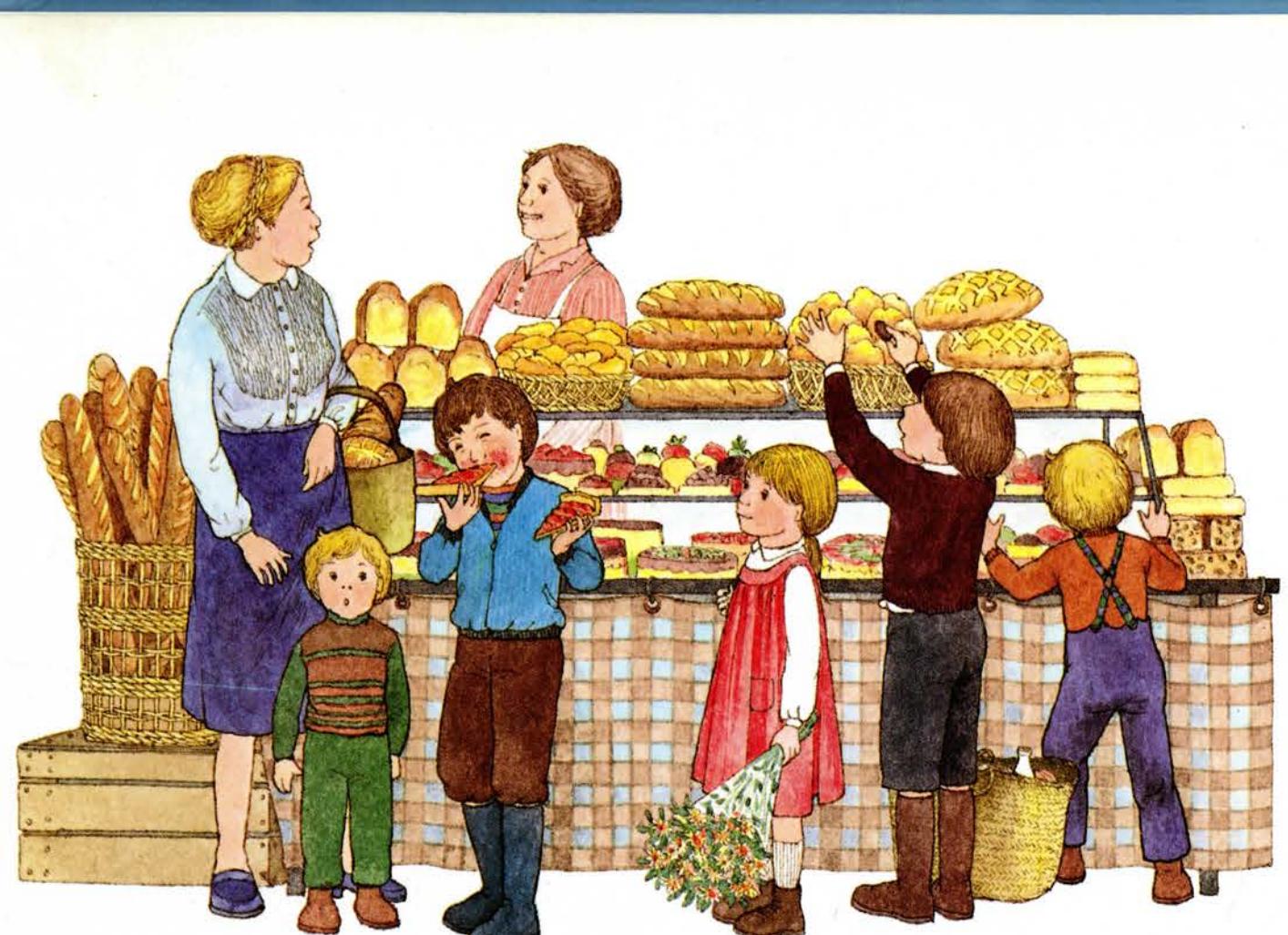
"No, she likes those big daisies best," said Nicky, and they bought a bunch.

"Will you grow flowers on your farm?" asked Sophie.

"Oh yes, I'll have a field full of different kinds," said Nicky. "You can come and pick them."

"I'll bring my donkey, and he can carry the flowers home to Mother in great big baskets," said Sophie.





"There's the baker," said Nicky. "We need to buy some French bread and a cottage loaf."

"Look at that boy," said Sophie. "He's eating two pieces of pie at once. Can't I have some pie too?"

"Don't be greedy," said Nicky. "We're meant to be buying bread, not pie."

"I'll bake the bread when you're a farmer," said Sophie.

"Yes, and I can make the flour for the bread myself," said Nicky. "I'll have hundreds of fields of wheat."

"Like the one near our house where all the poppies grow," said Sophie.





Nicky and Sophie had everything on their shopping list – the aubergines, the radishes, the apples, the milk, the two balls of wool, the flowers and the bread.

They stopped at the fountain for a drink, and Sophie laughed when two little birds who had been bathing spattered her with water.

Then Sophie saw a man selling balloons. “I’m going to buy one for Robin,” she said.

They had just enough money to buy a lovely big pink balloon.





Then they walked home down the lane. The basket full of shopping felt heavy and they were tired, but the balloon floated behind them.

They unpacked the basket in the kitchen.

"You haven't forgotten anything," said Mother.

"You *are* good at shopping."

"I made the list," said Nicky.

"It was my idea to get the balloon," said Sophie.

"It's for Robin, because he's too small to go shopping."

"But you're big enough, aren't you," said Mother.







Sophie and Nicky go shopping for their mother by themselves for the first time. As they make their purchases, fantasy and reality are enchantingly blended – each item on their list also has a beautiful full-page illustration showing children happily participating in its making or gathering. With a wealth of detail to look at and talk about, this delightful book is one for parents to share with the very young.

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Also available

*Sophie and Nicky and the Four Seasons*

